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Trafficking in women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/98 of 12 December 1997, the present report provides information about steps taken within several forums of the United Nations, as well as regionally and nationally, to implement the recommendations for action contained in that resolution. The report identifies areas where further efforts are needed.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/98 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly emphasized the need for more concerted and sustained national, regional and international action over the alarming levels of trafficking in women and girls. It made comprehensive recommendations for Governments, regional and international organizations, with regard to law reform and law enforcement; measures to address the root factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex; cooperation and concerted action to dismantle national, regional and international networks in trafficking; resource allocation for programmes to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking; provision of social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking; and the development of educational and training programmes and policies to prevent sex tourism and trafficking.

2. Governments were encouraged to develop systematic data-collection methods and continuously update information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates, and to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices. Governments were also invited, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques. Governments and civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, were further invited, consistent with freedom of expression, to promote the responsible use of new information technologies, in particular the Internet, to prevent trafficking in women and girls.

3. The resolution also called on States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to include information and statistics on trafficking in their reports under those treaties, and invited the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography and other human rights mechanisms, to focus on the issue. The Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council were also invited to prioritize the problem.

4. The present report describes steps that have been taken to implement the resolution, based on available information, including replies of Member States and bodies of the United Nations system to a request for information circulated during 1997. During the period since the adoption of the resolution, trafficking in women and girls has been the focus of attention within several forums of the United Nations, as well as regionally and nationally. Trafficking has also been the subject of several regional non-governmental organizations consultations, which have highlighted the complex nature of the problem, including a consultation on the theme "The trafficking of newly independent States' women abroad", held at Moscow from 3 to 5 November 1997; a consultation on the theme "Organizing against trafficking in women and sexual exploitation regionally and globally", held at Dhaka from 26 to 29 June 1998; and a transnational training seminar on trafficking in women, held at Budapest from 20 to 24 June 1998. International and national non-governmental organizations and other parts of civil society have also been responsible for the creation of education campaigns to prevent trafficking and sensitize communities to the existence of the issue, and in the provision of assistance and support to victims of trafficking.

5. Despite the attention the issue has received, however, much needs to be done, at all levels, to translate policy recommendations into concrete action. In particular, more focused actions should be identified and specific recommendations directed at the coordination of the various approaches and strategies that have been adopted within the United Nations system.

II. National measures

6. Measures adopted by Member States to address trafficking in women and girls were described in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in 1997 (A/52/355). During 1998, according to information available to the United Nations Secretariat, several Member States have adopted bilateral arrangements to address the issue. These have included a United States of America/Italy working group on trafficking in women and children, which has agreed on a number of joint actions, including exchange of best practices with respect to assistance, protection and social integration of victims, such as through joint programme strategies for victim outreach to be implemented in Italy and the United States; the protection of victims' families in source countries; joint public information campaigns in source countries, arranged cooperatively with

authorities and non-governmental organizations; regular exchange of information; training for law enforcement and border officials in source countries to identify patterns and methods of trafficking and prevent trafficking through effective investigation and prosecution; and the development of witness protection procedures and victim services in source countries in cases of repatriation. Also during 1998, the United States introduced a plan of action on trafficking in women, including cooperation between the United States and Ukraine.

7. Several countries, such as the United States, have established inter-agency working groups comprised of senior officials from various agencies. The United States group focuses on prevention, protection and enforcement,[1] while the Italian Government also created an inter-ministerial coordination group for government action against trafficking in women and minors for sexual exploitation. Several countries have also introduced legislation that allows them to prosecute their own citizens if crimes are committed against children abroad, and some countries are introducing legislation to combat cyber-crime.

III. Actions by United Nations bodies

8. Over the past year, a number of United Nations bodies have addressed the issue of trafficking in women and girls, and several of them have made recommendations aimed at the prevention of trafficking and the rehabilitation of victims. In general, activities of these bodies have focused on the adoption of resolutions and recommendations that reflect the urgent need to take action to address trafficking in women and girls. Greater efforts are required to translate the recommendations of these bodies into action.

A. Commission on the Status of Women

9. At its forty-second session, from 2 to 13 March 1998, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on four critical areas of concern identified by the Beijing Platform for Action.[2] The Commission addressed the issue of trafficking in women and girls in this context, further refining and concretizing the broad strategies outlined in the Platform for Action in this regard.

10. In its agreed conclusions on violence against women, the Commission on the Status of Women called on Governments, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to support and encourage partnerships for the establishment of national networks and to provide resources for shelters and relief support for women and girls so as to offer a safe, sensitive and integrated response to women victims of violence, including programmes designed to heal victims of trafficking and rehabilitate them into society. Governments were encouraged to develop bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements and protocols to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls and assist victims of violence resulting from prostitution and trafficking. International information exchange on trafficking in women and girls was identified as a responsibility of Government, and the establishment of a data-collection centre within Interpol, regional law enforcement agencies and national police forces were recommended. Implementation of relevant human rights instruments in order to eliminate organized and other forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation and pornography, was also recommended. All forms of trafficking in women and girls for the purposes of prostitution was to be criminalized and all traffickers penalized. To that end, Governments were called on to take steps to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and during this time, women were to be guaranteed access to social, medical, financial and legal assistance and protection.

11. Specific recommendations relating to research and sex-disaggregated data collection were also made in the agreed conclusions relating to violence against women. Governments were called on to promote coordinated multidisciplinary research that addresses the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Community-based research and national surveys on violence against women, including with regard to trafficked women, were also to be sponsored by Governments, and possible mechanisms, such as national rapporteurs, who would report to Governments on the scale, prevention and combating of violence against women, particularly trafficking in women, were to be explored.

12. Actions to be taken by Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to bring about attitude change, included promotion of the responsible use of new information technologies, particularly the Internet, and the encouragement of steps to prevent the use of these technologies for trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The latter included the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls. Campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed

decisions and prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking were also to be encouraged.

13. Strategies to address trafficking were also outlined in part E of the Commission's agreed conclusions relating to the girl child. Governments, international organizations and civil society were requested to collect information and raise public awareness on the issue of trafficking in order to better design and improve preventative programmes; consider implementing the recommendations of the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the 1996 World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (see A/51/385, annex); and establish recovery programmes for children who have been abused. Governments were called on to enact and enforce laws that prohibit sexual exploitation, including prostitution and trafficking in children, paying special attention to girls; prosecute and punish persons and organizations engaged in and/or promoting, *inter alia*, child pornography and sex tourism involving minors; and condemn and penalize all those involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children who are victims of those practices were not penalized.[3]

B. Commission on Human Rights

14. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1998/30 on traffic in women and girls, which contained many of the elements contained in resolution 52/98 of the General Assembly. In addition, the Commission invited the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to include the issue of trafficking in women and girls in its programme of work under its advisory, training and information activities with a view to providing assistance to Governments, upon their request, in instituting preventive measures against trafficking through education and appropriate information campaigns. The Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Working Group of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were invited to continue to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls as a priority concern. The resolution also invited relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to Governments, at their request, in planning and setting up rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking, and in training personnel who will be directly involved in the implementation of those programmes.

1. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

15. At its twenty-third session (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/14), the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery addressed trafficking in women and girls under several agenda items, and adopted a number of recommendations in this regard.[4]

2. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

16. At its fiftieth session, in August 1998, the Subcommission took note of the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and adopted a number of recommendations (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/L.31). In addition to reiterating recommendations with regard to law reform and law enforcement that depenalize victims while penalizing those who exploit them, and for civil compensation for victims and to promote the reintegration found in the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Subcommission stressed the need for prosecution and punishment to be appropriate to the seriousness of the crime. The Subcommission's recommendations also focused on strengthening of the monitoring, prosecution and punishment of police and government officials who are responsible for complicity in trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution, as well as the adoption of policies for active monitoring, prosecution and punishment of such activities. The Subcommission also encouraged States to collaborate with non-governmental organizations in the development of national plans of action in accordance with the 1996 Programme of Action for the Prevention in the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1), to ensure the coordination of laws and implementing agencies relevant to the trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution and the empowerment of their victims and survivors, and to transmit such plans of action to the Working Group for its consideration.

17. The Subcommission invited the Committees on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Rights of the Child to elaborate general recommendations to clarify State reporting procedures with regard to traffic in persons and related practices of sexual exploitation. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was invited to continue to address the problem of trafficking and related practices and to recommend specific measures in this regard. The Special

Rapporteur on violence against women was invited to follow up her investigation on traffic in women and girls and related sexual exploitation reflected in her report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session (see E/CN.4/1997/47 and Add.1). She was also invited to conduct studies and engage in a consultative process with Governments, non-governmental organizations and other interested persons on such issues as (a) an assessment of the global sex industry and measures to identify and penalize the perpetrators of the global sex trade; (b) the legal status of prostitution and the decriminalization of the victims of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution; (c) international standards regarding the prevention of trafficking and related practices of sexual exploitation and the protection of its victims; (d) the rights of victims and survivors of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution, including the right to compensation from their exploiters; and (e) the responsibility of the customer in creating a demand for trafficking and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

18. Also acting on the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Subcommission urged States to examine and analyse the causes and consequences of corruption in the perpetuation of slavery and slave-like practices, and encouraged existing international arrangements that aim to improve the training and professionalism of law enforcement personnel, as well as their respect for human rights. The Subcommission also recommended that Governments, as a matter of priority, review, amend and enforce existing laws, or enact new laws to prevent the misuse of the Internet for trafficking, prostitution and the sexual exploitation of women and children, and that Governments and non-governmental organizations further research the misuse of the Internet for those purposes, and develop and implement educational programmes, policies and laws to address this misuse. It also recommended that Governments investigate and use as evidence of crimes and acts of discrimination, advertising, correspondence and other communications over the Internet to promote sex trafficking, the exploitation of prostitution, sex tourism, bride trafficking and rape, and encouraged new levels of cooperation among Governments and national and regional law enforcement bodies in order to combat trafficking, and its globalization and the misuse of the Internet in this context.

C. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

19. At its seventh session, held from 21 to 30 April 1998, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the issue of international cooperation in combating transnational crime, including trafficking in human beings, including women and children, and adopted two resolutions relating to trafficking in women and girls, both of which concern the elaboration of a new legal instrument with respect to illegal trafficking and transportation of migrants.

20. In its draft resolution IV, "Action against illegal trafficking in migrants, including by sea", the Commission stressed the need to combat all criminal practices connected with illegal trafficking and transporting of migrants, having due regard to universally recognized human rights, as well as the need for the establishment of bilateral, regional and multilateral coordinating mechanisms to fight activities related to illegal trafficking and transportation of migrants. The Commission emphasized that women and children are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of the crime of illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, and recognized the importance of elaborating an efficient legal instrument combating all aspects of transnational crime, including illegal trafficking, and decided that the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of such an instrument should hold discussions on the elaboration of an instrument against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, taking into account existing proposals for such an instrument.[5] Existing proposals for such a convention and protocol on this subject have been submitted by the Governments of Austria and Italy.[6]

21. In its draft resolution V, "Action to combat international trafficking in women and children", the Commission decided that the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime to be established by the General Assembly should discuss the elaboration of an international instrument on trafficking in women and children. The Commission emphasized five issues in connection with trafficking in women and children: the need for States to take effective and expeditious measures to provide penalties in order to combat all aspects of organized criminal activities at the international level relating to trafficking in women and children; the importance of sharing information in order to locate and arrest those who organize trafficking in women and children, as well as those who exploit the traffic; the need for States to provide training for

law enforcement, immigration and other officers and to initiate public information campaigns to make potential victims and the general public aware of the exploitation and possible loss of life inherent in trafficking in women and children; the need for countries of origin, transit and destination to observe fully international obligations and national laws, including those concerning the humane treatment and strict observance of all human rights of women and children, whether trafficked voluntarily or involuntarily; the goal that international trafficking in women and children should not inhibit immigration or freedom of travel consistent with laws or undercut the protection provided to refugees in international law; and the need for strengthened international cooperation and technical assistance for the benefit of developing countries.

D. Specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system

22. The International Labour Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour incorporates a programme on child trafficking that seeks to prevent children from being lured, coerced and trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation; strengthen law enforcement; withdraw victims of sexual exploitation and provide them with rehabilitation, repatriation, as well as social and economic reintegration programmes; and create public awareness and mobilize action against all forms of commercial exploitation of children.

23. Country-level programmes during 1997–1998 have included the Daughter's Education Programme, which incorporates a series of activities implemented at the local level seek to provide relevant education for girls at risk of falling victims of prostitution and trafficking in northern Thailand. A subregional programme against child trafficking in South Asia and the Mekong Basin countries was also introduced in 1997. Phase one of this programme incorporates action-oriented research to improve understanding of the nature and magnitude of the problem, review ongoing responses, identify a strategy for action and design programmes at country and subregional levels to prevent trafficking in children and rehabilitate victims. Phase two incorporates awareness-raising campaigns at local, national and regional levels to highlight the problem and mobilize action from parties concerned, including the community and policy-making bodies; strengthening of law enforcement through training; provision of multidisciplinary preventive and rehabilitation programmes; health care, counselling, education and training, and social integration; provision of options to the children at risk and their parents; and the establishment of common intercountry mechanisms in both sending and receiving countries, including safe and protective repatriation programmes, creating environment for a social movement opposed to trafficking at the national, regional and international levels.

24. In August 1998, the International Labour Organization (ILO) published a study entitled, "The sex sector: the economic and social bases of prostitution in South East Asia", which includes country studies from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Although trafficking in women and girls was not a focus of the study, recruitment of children into the sex sector through trafficking is addressed, and efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children are outlined. In addition, the study describes various social integration programmes for women and children who have been employed in the sex sector.

25. A number of United Nations entities have cooperated in programmes to combat trafficking in women. For example, the United Nations Children's Fund has collaborated in an awareness-raising programme in Bangladesh, while a working group to address trafficking composed of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and a number of non-governmental organizations has recently been established. United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme, have also sought funds for subregional projects to address trafficking, while the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, jointly with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, is planning a comprehensive research project that will broaden knowledge of the dynamics leading to trafficking and provide the basis of interventions in this context.

26. Several of the projects supported during 1998 by the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, have concerned measures to address trafficking in women and girls. These have included a project directed at girls in Russian orphanages that aims to educate them on trafficking and sexual slavery and provide them with information on available assistance.

IV. Activities of other bodies

27. On 19 May 1998, the European Commission adopted communication 335/5 concerning measures relating to violence against children, young persons and women. In addition to encouraging member States of the European Union to contribute to the campaign on violence against women during 1999, the communication recommends that member States employ Europol, particularly Europol Liaison Officers, to ensure fast mutual assistance in tracing and recovery of missing children with a view to taking action against the criminals or criminal networks involved, and to improve and harmonize the existing international and national registers of missing persons in member States, in particular with regard to definitions and criteria for inclusion in the registers and the compatibility and accessibility of the databases in and between member States. The European Commission has also been developing an action plan on promoting safe use of the Internet. Council of Europe activities have included a conference on child sexual exploitation held at Strasbourg during April 1998, and an international seminar on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation held in June 1998.

28. Prior to the tenth summit of the member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in July 1998, the Foreign Ministers of SAARC adopted a draft SAARC convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for the purposes of prostitution.[7]

29. States parties to the draft convention will be required to take effective measures to ensure that trafficking in any form is an offence under their criminal law, and that such offences are punishable by penalties appropriate to the grave nature of the offence. They will also be required to provide for the punishment of any person who keeps, maintains, manages or knowingly finances or takes part in the financing of a place used for the purpose of trafficking and knowingly lets or rents a building or other place for the purpose of trafficking. States parties will be required to grant each other wide mutual legal assistance in regard to investigations, inquiries, trials and other proceedings, including with respect to evidence, the provision of information, search and seizure and service of documents, and offences in connection with the convention will be extraditable offences. States parties will be obliged to provide training and assistance to their respective authorities to enable them to conduct inquires, investigations and prosecute offences effectively, and will also be required to sensitize their law enforcement agencies and judiciary with regard to the subject of the Convention. Bilateral mechanisms to implement the Convention are encouraged, and States parties are obliged to exchange on a regular basis information relating to agencies, institutions and individuals who are involved in trafficking in the region, including the methods and routes that they employ. States parties are to consider measures to supervise employment agencies to prevent trafficking in women under the guise of recruitment, and shall focus preventive and development efforts on areas that are known to be a source of trafficking. States parties are also obliged to promote awareness through the media and by other means of the problem of trafficking in women and children. Modalities for the repatriation of victims to the country of origin are to be determined, and States parties are obliged to make suitable provision for the care and maintenance of victims, including legal advice and health facilities, pending repatriation. Protective homes or shelters for the rehabilitation of victims are to be established, and suitable provision is also to be made for legal advice, counselling and job training. States parties to the convention are also entitled to authorize non-governmental organizations to provide suitable care, and shall encourage non-governmental organizations in their efforts to prevent trafficking and rehabilitate its victims.

30. It is expected that the convention, which also requires States parties to establish a regional task force consisting of officials of Member States of SAARC to facilitate its implementation, will be approved by the Eleventh SAARC Summit in 1999.

V. Conclusion

31. Although the clandestine and criminal nature predicates that the actual incidence of trafficking is not known, it is perceived to be a growing problem since its root causes – poverty, scarce resources, lack of opportunities for and low status of women, and political and economic instability, as well as the growth of networks of trans-border organized crime – continue to be global factors. Strategies to address these root factors should be facilitated and supported by the United Nations and its Member States, and at the same time measures should be strengthened to discourage traffickers, protect those who are vulnerable to trafficking, offer legal, physical and psychological protection and empowerment to victims of trafficking, and address the futures of women and children who have been victims of trafficking.

32. Member States should accord the highest priority to crime prevention and law enforcement policies in relation to this issue. They should ensure that specific offences related to trafficking exist and are widely and clearly

defined, and that the penalties for these offences adequately reflect their gravity. International, regional, subregional and bilateral intergovernmental agreements should be formulated and enforced in order to ensure and facilitate the prosecution of offenders, irrespective of location. States should introduce legislation incorporating extraterritorial jurisdiction to facilitate the prosecution of traffickers, as well as clear extradition procedures for trafficking-related offences. Measures should also be introduced to allow confiscation of the criminal revenue of trafficking networks. Judicial cooperation and information-sharing between Member States should be encouraged and facilitated. In particular, Member States should share information on the systems used by traffickers and on convictions for offences related to trafficking.

33. Measures to encourage victims of trafficking to identify traffickers and act as witnesses in criminal prosecutions should also be explored. These might include restrictions on deportation where victims are prepared to act as witnesses, and witness protection measures. Victims of trafficking should have access to assistance, support and protection when awaiting repatriation proceedings, including access to legal, psychological and medical assistance. Victims of trafficking should be awarded compensation through criminal compensation schemes, which could be financed through the confiscated criminal revenue of traffickers. Intergovernmental agreements to guarantee the voluntary and safe return of women and ensure that protection and support is provided to trafficked women awaiting repatriation proceedings should be elaborated. The human rights of victims should be assured and steps should be taken to ensure they are not criminalized or imprisoned. Bilateral agreements obliging cooperation between local immigration officials and consulates to assist trafficked women should be developed and made widely known.

34. Measures to guarantee the voluntary and safe return of trafficked women should be put in place, and any barriers for trafficked women to return to their countries, with or without passports or identification documents, should be eliminated. Broad programmes to support returning women should be developed and implemented by Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In this regard, community-based approaches to reintegration should be encouraged.

35. Efforts to strengthen training and public awareness of civil servants dealing with migration, particularly those at embassies and consulates and those in charge of the delivery of visas, should be enhanced, and Governments should train law enforcement officials at all levels with respect to trafficking, violence against women and recognition of trafficking situations, including identification of front companies and groups.

36. Broad-based ongoing educational and awareness-raising campaigns, including the media, to combat domestic and international trafficking should be introduced nationally, subregionally, regionally and internationally. These should address, *inter alia*, the possibilities and limitations of legal immigration and the risks of exploitation that illegal immigration presents, the methods used by traffickers, basic elements of labour and contract law, the human rights of migrants in foreign countries, and the means of obtaining help if one's rights are violated, including crisis centres and available governmental assistance. Vulnerable groups should be particularly targeted and community-based strategies employed in this regard.

37. Government/non-governmental organization collaboration in programmes of prevention, victim support and reintegration of victims should be encouraged, and steps should be taken to ensure that data related to trafficking is coordinated and centralized. Means to allow Governments to provide for exchange of experience and best practices, for example with respect to au pair working requirements, methods of addressing corruption and organized crime, should also be encouraged. Relevant cases and evidence should be collected and shared, as should experience in legal and policy change. Research into the precise scale and extent of trafficking and the modus operandi of traffickers should be encouraged so as to provide a concrete basis for legal and policy change. Strategies should focus on trafficking and the criminal nature of this activity and those involved in this conduct, rather than on the activity of the victims of trafficking, whose human rights should be assured.

Notes

[1] See Theresa Loar, "Trafficking in women: the need for international cooperation and a multidisciplinary response" in *The Trafficking of INS Women Abroad, Report of an International Conference in Moscow, 3–5 November 1997* (Global Survival Network and International League for Human Rights).

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* (E/1998/27).

[4] For example, recommendation 3 on traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others; recommendation 4 on prevention of the trans-border traffic in women and girls for sexual exploitation; recommendation 5 on the role of corruption in the perpetuation of slavery and slave-like

practices, and recommendation 6 on misuse of the Internet for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* (E/1998/30).

[6] Ibid., annex V.

[7] See SAARC document SAARC/Summit.10/CM.20/3.